

REMARKS:

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The pending claims in the present application are claims 1, 3-5, 7-12, 14-16, 19-23, 25-26, and 29-33.

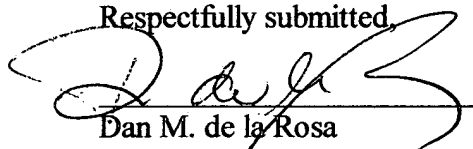
In an Advisory Action dated April 1, 2004, the Examiner requested that the text and status of claims were not included in the amendment. In response, the Applicant is enclosing a response which includes the text and status of the claims.

In view of the actions taken and arguments presented, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention is now in condition for allowance.

An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Dated: April 5, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



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